

# HONEY BUNCHES OF NOTES

HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Hi all,

This is a busy month at Honey Creek.

Please find time to attend our Curriculum

Celebration this Friday, January 16 from

5 to 7 P.M. If you have friends who are planning to apply to Honey Creek, please encourage them to attend. You will also want to remind them that our enrollment meetings will be held on January 21 and 26 from 5:30 to 7:30.

This month a number of area high schools will hold open houses. Please see the dates, times and links below.



### Community High

Wednesday, January 28	7:00-8:30 PM @ Clague MS
Sunday, February 1	2:00-3:30 PM @ Scarlett MS
Monday, February 2	7:00-8:30 PM @ CHS

### Aim High School

January 27, 5-8 P.M. 11648 N. Main St. Whitmore Lake, MI 48189  
[www.aimhighschool.com](http://www.aimhighschool.com) / (734) 550-9595 / [info@aimhighschool.com](mailto:info@aimhighschool.com)

This link will take you to their invitation <http://aimhighschool.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee0865aaaaf62adc9b2c26caf&id=81977f705b&e=5a1dba2e91>

### Washtenaw International High School

January 27th @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
<http://www.wihi.org/wihi-open-houses-for-class-of-2019.html>

I hope to see you Friday!  
 Al

## January

Mark your calendar

Jan. 16

Curriculum celebration

5:00-7:00 pm

Jan. 19

M.L.King Day

Jan. 20

Records Day

No school or care

Jan. 21

Enrollment MTG

5:30-7:30 pm

Jan. 28

Board Meeting

5:30 pm

February

Events

Feb. 6th

1/2 day

Feb. 11

Count Day

Feb. 16-20

Mid-winter

Break

**Please be aware of traffic safety! Here are some reminders of our Honey Creek traffic rules:**

**--Fire lanes**

There is no parking at any time in the fire lane. These are the lanes by the curb both in front of the building and along the fence by the modulars. You may stand in these lanes (remaining in your car) at pick up and drop off, but you may never leave your vehicle unattended in these lanes. This includes outside of normal school hours (such as pick up from aftercare or activities, or during school gatherings - even in the evening). If you use the curb area for drop-off or pick up, please use your directional signal and check for traffic before driving away from the curb.

If you find yourself using the curb lane when school buses are present, then you should use the designated parking lots instead. Buses at High Point are transporting students with disabilities and always have priority over other automobile traffic.

If you need to leave your car to enter school, even for a few minutes, please park in a designated parking area.

Of course it is **NEVER** acceptable to double park even if you remain in your vehicle. If you cannot find a space at the curb, you must use the designated parking areas.

**--Crosswalks**

Drivers, please come to a complete stop at each crosswalk. There are six crosswalks on the circular drive through the WISD campus. Four of these crosswalks are regularly used by families with young children. Because children are often entering crosswalks from between two cars, they may be difficult to see and their view of oncoming traffic will be limited.

Pedestrians, please use crosswalks to move across traffic, especially during busy drop off and pick up times. Children should never be unattended either in drive lanes or in parking areas.

It is **NEVER** acceptable to drive around other cars stopped at a crosswalk or to swerve around pedestrians in the crosswalk. It is also **NEVER** acceptable to

## **--Speed limits**

The posted speed limit within the WISD is 15 miles per hour, 5 miles an hour through crosswalks. Please comply with this speed limit at all times. Be prepared to stop during peak pedestrian times such as morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up.

## **--Standing lanes**

During pick up and drop off, cars may stand in fire lanes. Please use turn signals to indicate change in lane. Forming a second line of cars is not safe for children and is confusing to other drivers. If you are not able to join the line of standing cars, please keep moving or park in a designated parking spot.

## **--Aftercare**

If children are not picked up within 15 minutes of dismissal (by 3:30 for normal school day), they need to report to aftercare until an adult arrives. Children must be encouraged to wait safely (out of drive areas) for parents.

## **--Drop-off/Pick-up Near the Modulars**

The pedestrian walkways are less defined near the modulars. Drivers should be extra cautious in this area. Double parking is not permitted in the area near the modulars. Please be mindful of your speed and of other drivers and use directional signals when reentering traffic.

## **SERVICE LEARNING**

Service-Learning and building a spirit of service in order to positively impact the world are core components of Honey Creek Community School's mission.

Curriculum-Based Service-Learning happens in the classrooms,<sup>SAS/</sup>

Newsletter.January2015.doc.pages/01072015sjh but many students are motivated to serve others outside of school hours as well.

Each year we recognize students and families who spend 50+ hours/year serving others with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

The deadline to submit hours is June 10th, 2015. An awards ceremony will be held the following year to honor all recipients. On the subject of awards ceremonies, we hope to honor those students who earned the 2013-2014 award as soon as our awards arrive.

In the meantime, thank you for supporting our students as they learn to become philanthropists, giving of their time, talents, and treasures to benefit the common good.

**In short, thank you for being heroes!**

## K-1

We are beginning our third thematic unit of the year, “My Journey through the Community”. In this unit, children work toward developing the following understandings: Learning about myself and my community helps me to see the patterns in our community and my role within it; I can make observations to discover patterns; and when I see community patterns I can make informed choices. Learning about historical patterns of unfairness and patterns of how people worked together to work for justice helps me make informed choices about how to treat others. Learning about resource use and conservation helps me see patterns in how we take care of the environment that can help me make informed choices.

We begin with a Fairness Unit, in which we read age-appropriate books about different forms of discrimination (patterns of unfairness) and the children learn how people throughout history have stood up to unfairness and gotten laws changed to make things fair for different groups of people (women, people with disabilities, people with different religious beliefs, and African Americans). The children then make the connection to how they can make sure things are fair in our own community, by using I Statements and SOS to resolve differences, and how they can stand up for justice (fairness) when they see something that is not fair. This unit provides a deeper context for the meaning and celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

During our Fairness Unit we'll also be engaging in some Service-Learning that will benefit Heifer International. Heifer International is a non-profit organization that provides livestock and training to help impoverished families become self-reliant. To find out more about the organization, please visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) and stay tuned for more information about our upcoming Service-Learning work!

## **2-3**

2-3 students are off and running in 2015. We are excited about our first field trip to the Michigan History Museum on Friday, January 30. The bus leaves at 8:30 sharp! Children will need a sack lunch. This trip will cover all of our Social Studies curriculum this year. In the classroom, we are still working on Michigan history and curriculum. This includes two class books, Traders in Time and Erie Trail West by Jannie Lynn Panagopoulos.

In math, we are starting an intensive unit on time. Michigan standards have children telling time on both an analog and digital clock. The analog clock proves to be very difficult for some students since they have limited exposure to this type of clock. If you have one in your house, pull it out, please! We are also starting subtraction with regrouping with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, while 3<sup>rd</sup> graders continue to build skill and stamina in multiplication and division.

Students are hard at work publishing their Native American nonfiction reports. All students will be using Google Docs for this and doing (hopefully) all of the keyboarding themselves. For many 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, this is the first exposure to keyboarding and they have mixed feelings about this. After this publishing experience, students will start a unit on narrative (story) writing. In addition, we are always working on good sentence structure and mechanics, spelling and handwriting.

Our Read to Self time keeps growing as children build stamina and skills in reading. Teachers are completing mid-year assessments in order to gauge where children will be in regards to our end of the year goals: Level N for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and Level T for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. The research is clear that how many minutes children read each day or week has a huge impact on their growth as readers. We also know that finding a book at the right level and in the right subject is imperative. If you are having trouble finding good fit books for your child, please see Marion or your child's teacher.

## **4-5**

4/5 classrooms are looking forward to getting together and seeing everyone at Curriculum Night... Hope you'll take the time to stop by and enjoy looking through all the projects.

**Middle School** For more information visit us at: <http://honeycreekschool.org/ms/>

# ART

It's been an exciting fall in the Honey Creek Art classes. Please find artwork on display in the cabinet across from the cafeteria and hanging in the hallway between the A and C wings. I'll be set up in the gym during Curriculum Celebration, where I'll have artwork ready to give back to students. There will also be artwork with the 2/3 projects, displayed in the A-Wing Centrum.

K/1 students have been working with line, color, value, shape and form through collage, painting, drawing and sculpting. They especially enjoyed making pinch pots with Model Magic sculpting compound.

The 2/3 students made connections between the art room and their classrooms when they sculpted Mitt the Michigan Mouse in clay. He was based on a character they had read about in class. They also made moccasins and birch bark containers as part of the Native American unit they did in class.

Among other projects, 4/5 Art students practiced one-point perspective when they made aspen tree paintings. They also got to sculpt when they learned about Dia de los Muertos, and made their own sugar skulls from clay.

In Middle School, art students spent a lot of time drawing and watercolor painting Zentangle animals, which are abstract animals filled with beautiful patterns. They're currently working on a printmaking project, based on their study of Pop Art, and especially Andy Warhol. Elective Art Class students have been making mixed media collages.

email me at [svanloo@hc.wash.k12.mi.us](mailto:svanloo@hc.wash.k12.mi.us). I photograph all artwork, so your child's work from last year and this year will be there, if you decide to register.

As always, you are invited to check out our online galleries of artwork on Artsonia. Your students' work is only displayed if you give permission, and even then, only their first name is listed with their work. Many families enjoy sharing artwork with family members both nearby and far away, and you have the option of purchasing gifts with your child's work on it. If you would like to check out the Honey Creek galleries of Artsonia, please go to <http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=48267>. If you would like to give permission for your child's work to be visible on Artsonia, please

## **Stem Committee**

The STEM Fair was held on December 5th and was a huge success thanks to all the contributing students and volunteers. Special thanks to Nadine Wang, Serena Poli and Miss Washtenaw County, Alexandria Strother.

On January 12th at 3:30, we will be hosting an informational meeting regarding the Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO). This team-based event is for 2nd through 5th graders, and is a wonderful opportunity for students to acquire STEM-related knowledge in a fun, team setting.

Sign your child up to be a part of one (or two) olympiad event teams. Detailed description of each event team may be found at: <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/wesowizards.home/home>; There are also opportunities for parents to **volunteer as a coach or assistant coach for an event**. (Anyone can volunteer as a coach so even if you do not have a 2nd - 5th grader at Honey Creek, please consider coaching one of our teams.)

If you cannot make it to the meeting but are interested in WESO - please contact Head Coach, Sara Brintall for more information. let me know. Online sign-up is possible by [clicking here](#).

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL** BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS:” February 6th; March 20th & 27th; April 24th; and May 8th. If you have not already registered online, please register by emailing [afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us](mailto:afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us). Also, please remember that you **MUST** give us 48-hour **WRITTEN** notice to cancel any pre-registered care without being held financially responsible.

**REMINDER: NO ON-SITE STUDENT CARE DURING BREAKS OR ON CERTAIN HOLIDAYS.** This includes: January 19th & 20th; February 16th-20th; April 6th-10th; May 25th; and June 10th.

**SPECIAL CLUBS.** There are still openings for the following after school special clubs:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Music Lessons
Basketball 5-8 (1/12 - 3/30)	Basketball 2-5 (1/13 - 3/31)	Girl Scouts K-8 (12/3 - 6/3)	Indoor Soccer 2-3 - FULL (1/3 - 2/27)	Chess K-8 (1/9 - 5/15)
DIY Studio (TBA)	Swim Lessons K-8 (1/13 - 3/31)	Black Belt K-8 (1/21 - 4/1)	DIY Studio (TBA)	Sewing 2-8 (11/7-1/30)
	Spanish K-8 (TBA)	Aerial Silks 4-8 (1/28-4/15)		Spanish K-8 (TBA)
	Theatre 4-8 - FULL (12/9 - 4/23)	Acting Workshop (TBA)	Theatre 4-8 - FULL (12/9 - 4/23)	
	Art K-3 (1/27 - 3/31)	Art 4-8 (1/21 - 4/1)		
	Italian K-8 (1/13 - 4/21)			

Please pick up a registration form from the after school programs bulletin board down the hall from the parent mailboxes. Please stay tuned for information on these and other activities:

4H, Ballet, Baseball, Campfire, Capoeira, Chinese, Cooking, Crafts, Dance, Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Fitness, Football, French, Gaming, Garden, German, Gymnastics, Harp, Hip Hop, History Club, Juggling, Korean, Knitting, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, Skateboarding, Spiral Scouts, Soccer (K-8), Study Skills, Stunts, Tap Dance, Tech, Tennis, Tutoring, Volleyball, Writing, Yoga, Youth In Government, Zumba,

**PLEASE CARE WHAT YOU WEAR.** Recess will be outside everyday. Except for hazardous weather conditions (lightning, severe storms, wind chill below -10° F), we will always go outside for recess. There is limited indoor space that allows the children opportunities to move around energetically. Children should always dress for the weather. Students must wear snow pants, boots, coat, hat, and mittens or gloves in order to play in the snow and sled.

## **Board News**

The Board of Trustees met on December 17, 2014 at 5:30 pm. Present: Board: Yvette Atkinson, Christine Kelley, John Lonsway, Nina Nabors, Pamela Reister, Angela Tracey, Greg White; Community: Al Waters, Shellee Almquist, Mary Bassett, Karen Giltrow, Sue Hofbauer, Liz Scott.

### **Board Spotlight:**

Al Waters outlined Special Education services and funding to the board in order for us to have a better understanding of these issues. Discussion followed.

### **Director's Report:** Al Waters reviewed the following:

Al Waters reported on his three financial status meetings held on December 2. These were attended by about 30 Honey Creek families and generated some good feedback and questions. One presentation was filmed and is available <https://www.facebook.com/hccsfoundation>. Al will also consider holding a few more educational sessions this winter.

Al shared the Religious Expression Policy draft with the board.

Board reviewed Al's request that we revise the Readmittance policy to allow families returning to Honey Creek after a hiatus to be readmitted if they left the school on good terms and in good standing, and if there is an available space for the child. Board approved this amended policy.

Al reported a confusion about an Emergency Alert that was inappropriately sounded by ISD workers (and responded to appropriately by Honey Creek staff). Al will meet with administrators at the ISD to clarify use of this system and make a plan for future response.

After some inappropriate use of the school email, Al and the middle school teachers reviewed appropriate technology use and internet safety with all students.

## **Committee Reports:**

Committees reported on ongoing work, including having met goals established for 90-day mark at the beginning-of-year retreat.

Board agreed to meet for a mid-year retreat in February to focus on board development and meeting our goals for the year.

## **New Business:**

Discussion of air quality in the school building, and protocols for dealing with student or faculty/staff complaints. AI has agreed to consult with ISD around cleaning duties and maintaining healthy facilities.

## **Old Business:**

The Board of Trustees is seeking a 9<sup>th</sup> board member (either from the Honey Creek Community or from the local community nominated by a Honey Creek community member). The Honey Creek Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that Honey Creek Community School has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission and vision of inspiring and developing children through our proven methods of education. The Board is specifically seeking nominees who are dedicated to Honey Creek's sustainability as a school, have professional and business contacts within the local community that they are willing to leverage, and are available for up to a three year term. Areas of expertise include attorney/legal, accounting/finance, business background, community development, and fundraising.

## **Upcoming Events:**

There will be two enrollment meetings for families interested in joining the Honey Creek community, on January 21 and 26, at 5:30 pm.

**Next meeting will be held January 28 at 5:30 pm in the Pit. Public participation is always welcome!**